



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

<b>Committee/Task Force:</b>	Juvenile Justice & Cross-System Youth Task Force		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	January 7, 2022	<b>Time:</b>	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	David Sexton	<b>Location:</b>	Held Virtually via Zoom

## 1. Meeting Objective(s)

Receive sub-committee reports and an update from the Executive Director. Determine if any sub-committees are prepared to present at the next Commission meeting.

## 2. Standing Members

Name	Organization	In Attendance (X indicates present)
Steve Balko	Indiana Department of Education	
Jeff Bercovitz	Indiana Office of Court Services	
Sirrilla Blackmon	Family & Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health & Addiction	
Coleen Connor	Tippecanoe County CASA	
Ann Davis	Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA)	X
Terrie Decker	Indiana Department of Correction	
Hon. Kimberly Dowling	Delaware Circuit Court #2	X
Tracy Fitz	Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council	
Hon. Stephen Galvin	Co-Chair – Monroe County Circuitry Court #7	
Kory George	Wayne County Probation	
James (Mike) Goodwin	Indiana Department of Child Services, Sullivan County	X
Mike Gray	Madison County Probation Department	X
JauNae Hanger	Children’s Policy and Law Initiative	X
Jill Johnson	Marion County Public Defender Agency	
Heather Mollo	Jurist in Residence	X
Angela Reid-Brown	Indiana Office of Court Services	X
Michael Ross	Indiana Criminal Justice Institute	
Sandy Runkle	Prevent Child Abuse Indiana/The Villages	
Don Travis	Indiana Department of Child Services	X
Nancy Wever	Co-Chair – Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI	X
Julie Whitman	Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana	X
Joel Weineke	Indiana Public Defender Council	X

## 3. Staff/Guests

Name	Organization
Amber Becker	Division of Mental Health and Addiction
Bob Bragg	Hamilton County Juvenile Probation
Hon. Holly Harvey	Monroe Circuit Court
Megan Horton	Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI
Casey Pederson	Indiana University School of Medicine



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## 4. Updates/Old Business

Topic	Main Points	(R)ecommendations/(D)ecisions
Meeting Schedule	Will the Task Force meet in February and what are the decisions for upcoming meeting dates?	<p>The Task Force will have an ad hoc meeting on February 4.</p> <p>The next regularly scheduled Task Force meeting will be held on March 4.</p> <p>The Task Force's July meeting will be held on July 15.</p> <p>The Task Force's September meeting will be moved to September 16.</p> <p>The meeting time for future meetings will be kept as 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST.</p>



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## 5. New Business/Presentations

Topic	Main Points	(R)ecommendations/(D)ecisions
CISC Presentation Review	<p>Joel Weineke and Casey Pederson presented the Youth Reintegration Committee's presentation for the Commission to the group. Ms. Pederson's portion of the presentation focused on the data the committee collected from their recent survey. The committee makes the following recommendations in their presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extend the requirement for county-provided/contracted services to support reintegration from DOC to any child who has been removed for a period of X days or more.</li> <li>- Require that counsel appointed for the child remain on the case until the child is completely discharged from juvenile court jurisdiction.</li> <li>- Establish probation guidelines for reintegration services designed to prevent unnecessary risk of reoffending/violating of supervision that accompanies those services.</li> </ul> <p>The group discussed housing as a possible additional aspect of the recommendations. Sirrilla Blackmon noted that other programs she has seen have FLEX funding available for rental assistance. She suggested reaching out to the State housing authority.</p> <p>Members discussed circumstances around youth who had recently exited DOC. They weighed the possibility of establishing more group home opportunities for youth unable to return to their own homes/families. They also discussed how sex offenses can complicate post-commitment placement.</p> <p>Ms. Wever asked if Mr. Weineke would consider strengthening the language around visitation in his presentation to recommend that families be supported in visitation. She also asked if there was an opportunity to collaborate with the Governor's Workforce Cabinet and the Department of Workforce Development to get specific programming for these youth.</p>	<p>Julie Whitman recommended that Mr. Weineke get in touch with Coleen Connor and the Family Engagement sub-committee to address some of the questions and concerns that the group had.</p> <p>In the interest of time, Ms. Wever asked that the group send any additional feedback to Mr. Weineke and his team outside of the meeting prior to their presentation to the Commission in February.</p>



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Executive Director Update	<p>The next Commission meeting is scheduled for February 23 at the State Library. The Commission is currently seeking an evaluator and Ms. Whitman asked that anyone who had connections to people who do research evaluations reach out to those people and let them know about the opportunity. Ms. Whitman will continue to update the group around meeting requirements relating to the public health emergency and “open door” laws. Bills related to youth justice and child welfare are being tracked on the Commission’s website. Rep. McNamara’s HB 1359 tasks the Commission with developing a plan for statewide implementation of improved mental health services for justice involved youth.</p>		



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## 6. Sub-Committee Reports

Topic	Report
Dual Status Implementation Committee	Judge Mollo delivered the committee’s update. The statewide training for dual-status occurred on December 1, 2021. The training had over 800 registrants. Most counties had at least one individual attending. Probation officers and family case managers were the most heavily represented groups at the training. Judge Mollo presented to the Commission in December for the Committee. The Committee hopes to connect DCS’s data with the data they already monitor soon. DCS is currently changing one of their data software and this is expected to be a long-term project on their end. The Committee is also hoping to embed dual status in the new Probation Officers’ and family case managers’ trainings. Judge Mollo asked how the group felt about her committee developing an individual outreach plan to connect with counties from which they are having trouble receiving data. Nancy Wever indicated that she would support such a plan from the Committee.
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Committee	Judge Dowling and Judge Harvey delivered the committee’s update. The Committee had to cancel their October meeting. They are currently in the process of finalizing the updated tools for law enforcement and health care professionals. They are also working on a manual for Probation Officers. Judge Dowling mentioned that she had expressed a need for funding to get the cards for law enforcement and health care professionals printed. Ms. Whitman noted that the State Budget Director seemed open to providing funding for those cards if there was some measure of their effectiveness that could be reviewed. Judge Dowling said that she would work on getting numbers for that.
Emergency Shelter Care Committee	Mike Gray delivered the committee’s update. The committee completed its original charge and is looking at the implementation of recommendations as well as other areas of focus for new projects. Ms. Whitman said that she supported the Committee’s ongoing involvement in the implementation of their recommendations.
Diversion Subcommittee	Megan Horton delivered the committee’s report. The Committee last met in November 2021 where Tracy Fitz shared a “snapshot” around diversionary practices, policies, and programs in counties across the state. The Committee has finished that snapshot and is ready to share with the group. The Committee will present to the group in February and will prepare to present to the Commission in April.
Preventing Serious and Violent Delinquent Behavior Committee	Bob Bragg presented the committee’s update. The Committee reviewed 22 programs for reducing youth violence at their last meeting. The programs have been divided out to each member of the Committee to take a deeper dive into all of them. The Committee’s next meeting will be on February 1 and they will begin discussion on the programs’ viability in Indiana and weigh what recommendations they may take to the Commission.
Youth and Family Engagement Committee	Tabled.
Child and Adolescent Development Committee	JauNae Hanger delivered the committee’s report. The Committee has not met since its last meeting in late 2021. They have a meeting scheduled for next week. Ms. Hanger noted that she would like to use the extra time that her committee has around this issue to take a close look at how other states have responded legislatively and pull together a presentation based on that examination. Ms. Hanger asked if the group would be open to inviting potential guest speakers to a future meeting. Ms. Wever indicated that the group would be open to that.

## 7. Action Items (Include recommendations/queries for Executive Committee)



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<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>		<b>Due Date</b>		
N/A	N/A		N/A		
<b>8. Adjournment</b>					
<b>Action</b>					<b>Time</b>
Meeting Adjourned					N/A
<b>9. Next Meeting</b>					
<b>Date:</b>	3/4/2022	<b>Time:</b>	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Location:</b>	Held Virtually
<b>Topics/Objective(s):</b>					